

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims pending

- At time of the Action: Claims 1-24.
- After this Response: Claims 1-24.

Canceled or Withdrawn claims: None.

Amended claims: 1, 11, 15, 21, and 22.

New claims: None.

Please amend the claims as indicated below:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for blocking a call to a called line selected by a calling party, said calling party having a calling line identification number, said method comprising:

receiving an outgoing communication directed to a called line from a calling line, said calling line associated with a subscriber to an outgoing call blocking service;

obtaining a calling line identification number for said communication;

obtaining a called line identification number for said communication;

activating the outgoing call blocking service at a first pre-set time;

de-activating the outgoing call blocking service at a second pre-set time;

looking for said calling line identification number in a data store to determine data associated with said calling line identification number concerning calls from the calling line to a called line which are to be blocked; and

terminating the call if the data indicates that the call is to be blocked.

2. ((Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising completing the call if the data associated with the calling line identification number does not indicate that calls to the called line are to be blocked.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising completing the call if the called line identification number indicates that the called line is an emergency call line.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said data concerning calls to be blocked comprises a list of area codes to which calls are to be blocked.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said data concerning calls to be blocked comprises a list of at least one of a plurality of called line identification numbers of calls which are to be blocked.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said data concerning calls to be blocked comprises all calls.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said data concerning calls to be blocked comprises all long distance calls.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said data concerning calls to be blocked comprises all calls except calls to one of a plurality of specified called line identification numbers.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said data concerning calls to be blocked comprises all calls except calls to one of a plurality of specified area codes.
10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said data concerning calls to be blocked comprises all calls except local calls.

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ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. RP1 0069 US

Serial No. US/031/034

11. (Currently Amended) A method of activating an outgoing call blocking service, comprising:

receiving from a calling line at a central office associated with the calling line a predetermined access code to an outgoing call blocking service;

prompting a caller to provide data concerning outgoing calls to be blocked;

receiving the provided data; and

storing said data in a data store associated with the call blocking service; and

activating the outgoing call blocking service at one of a pre-set time and a pre-set day.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising:

prompting the caller for an authorization code; and

comparing the received authorization code with a stored authorization code for the calling line identification number.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising activating the service if the received authorization code corresponds to the stored authorization code for the calling line identification number.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising not activating the service if the received authorization code does not correspond to the stored authorization code for the calling line identification number.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of de-activating an outgoing call blocking service, comprising:

receiving from a calling line at a central office associated with the calling line a predetermined access code corresponding to an outgoing call blocking service;

prompting a caller for an authorization code;

retrieving a stored authorization code associated with said calling line identification number; and

comparing the received authorization code with the stored authorization code; and

de-activating the outgoing call blocking service at one of a pre-set time and a pre-set day.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising deactivating the service if the received authorization code corresponds to the stored authorization code for the subscriber.

17. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising not deactivating the service if the received authorization code does not correspond to the stored authorization code for the subscriber.

18. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising prompting the caller for an authorization code.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising storing said new authorization code in a database.

20. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising prompting the caller for data concerning calls to be blocked.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, further comprising:

receiving said data; and

storing said data in a database.

22. (Currently Amended) A system for blocking a call between a calling line and a called line within a telecommunications network, comprising:

a service switching point office for receiving an out-going call request from the calling line to a called line;

a storage device for storing data concerning outgoing calls to be blocked, and further for storing at least one pre-set time period over which the outgoing call blocking service is to be activated or de-activated, the time period being defined by at least one pre-set time or at least one pre-set day; and

a controller for determining if data concerning a call to the called line corresponds to data concerning calls to be blocked.

23. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein the controller terminates the call if data concerning a call to the called line corresponds to data concerning calls to be blocked.

24. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein the controller completes the call if data concerning a call to the called line does not correspond to data concerning calls to be blocked.